



5 QUESTIONS WITH 5 SEASONS

Mark Haze

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We talk to **Mark Haze**, powerful vocalist and runner-up in the 2011 SA Idols competition.



qA1: How has being part of Idols changed your music career?

When I entered Idols, I was working a full time job, and gigging with my band at night. Idols gave me the opportunity to finally see what it was like to be able to realize my dream of working as a full-time musician. The show allowed me the opportunity to showcase more than just my ability to sing rock music in pubs and clubs. I was able to see how a major production operates and learnt so much about the various aspects of performance. Since leaving the show, I was offered a recording contract and released my debut album to great success, with several singles off the album hitting the top 10. My single 'wake up' broke a record by staying on the charts for a record 23 weeks as well as hitting the number 1 spot. I've grown my performance in so many ways - from the intimate solo acoustic shows, to guest performing with various artists, to many corporate functions, and then finally realizing my dream of performing on the stadium stage. I've even performed in Malawi, Namibia and am in the process of planning a European tour. I have performed at the Grand Arena, Montecasino, the standard bank arena, the dome, the wave house, wanderers stadium and most recently was asked to be Bon Jovi's support act on their recent trip to SA.

qA2: What is your "secret" to success and how do you maintain a co-operative group dynamic within your band?

There's no secret- hard work and a good work ethic is all I stand by. Everyone in the band understands their role in the group and at the end of the day, we are artists who enjoy being creative.

qA3: Which artists (whether local or international) do you draw inspiration from?

I draw inspiration from a wide range of artists, including The Beatles, Queen, Bon Jovi, Ray Charles, Eric Clapton, Muddy Waters, Van Halen, U2, etc. I love watching documentaries on musicians and bands-observing the way they operate compared to my business. I always find that interesting and inspiring.

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qA4: What is the strangest performance request you've received to date? Most memorable?

The most memorable has to be performing as support act at Cape Town stadium during the Bon Jovi tour of SA. 60 000 people singing along to songs you've written and screaming out for an encore - it doesn't get much better than that. The strangest request I've ever received for a show was to judge an amateur rap contest prior to my performance.

qA5: Do you have any major projects in the pipeline for 2013/2014?

Myself and my wife are expecting our first child in August this year. I'm going to be a Dad! I am in the process of setting up tours to the UK and Europe for 2014 and will be back in studio early next year to begin work on my next album!

Read more about Mark Haze on his [profile page!](#)